(a) whether it is a fact that a number of private healthcare centres in the country do not have licence to undertake any surgery and are even unregulated and unaccountable;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to identify such private health centres and to bring them under law; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is for the State Government to monitor and supervise the functioning of private health care centres.

However, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has already introduced a Bill namely "Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Bill, 2007" in Parliament. The Bill is aimed to provide for the registration and regulation of clinical establishments in the country with a view to prescribe minimum standards of facilities and services.

Poor quality X-ray images

2087.SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the study conducted by International Atomic Energy Agency in Asia, Africa and Europe, saying that 53 per cent X-ray in hospitals appears to be of poor image quality thereby compromising accuracy of the diagnosis and unnecessary radiation exposure of patients; and

(b) if so, whether an analogous study will be made in our selected hospitals to verify the claim behind IAEA findings so that the twin advantage of minimum radiation exposure and reducing nearly 50 per cent of our expenditure incurred on X-raying process presently may be obtained?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) As per information available, the study conducted in question appears to be a sample study/survey and may not be correct to generalize as interpretation of x-rays which depends on various factors like type of machine, quality of films, duration of exposure, technical faults etc.

Distribution of medicine by untrained persons

†2088. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that medicines are being sold by untrained person instead of trained person (pharmacist) at several chemist shops which has proved to be fatal for patients in several cases where wrong medicines were given; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard, and the details thereof, State-wise;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 & Rules framed thereunder, drugs are required to be dispensed under the supervision of a registered pharmacist only. State Licensing Authorities carry out inspections to ensure that the chemists comply with the provision of the said rules while selling of the drugs.

Revival of Moonidih mine project

2089.SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the coking coal prices zooming in the global market, the Steel Authority of India Limited is taking a renewed interest in implementing its long pending proposal to fund an estimated Rs.166 crore project for re-development of Bharat Coking Coal Limited operated Moonidih mine in Jharkhand;

(b) whether the project will ensure an additional coking coal supply of approximately 0.5 million tonne per annum to SAIL, on operation cost-plus basis;

(c) whether the chances of any major increase in production are also limited in the short or medium term; and

(d) to what extent the SAIL has been able to revive BCCL's Moonidih Mine Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has signed a MOU with Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) on 27.4.2006 for providing a soft loan of Rs.166 Crores for phase-I upgradation of 16 Top seam of Moonidih Mine.

(b) As per the terms and conditions of the MOU, the entire production of 0.66 Million Tonnes per annum (MTPA) raw coal/ 0.46 MTPA washed coal will be made available to SAIL at mutually agreed prices.

(c) The production of Moonidih Mine can be further enhanced by developing its 15 seam. SAIL has also expressed its interest to BCCL for funding the development of 15 seam on similar lines.

(d) The revival has commenced with the awarding of the contract for supply, installation commissioning and operation of long wall equipment in December '08. Production from the mine is scheduled to commence after 18 months from the signing of contract.

Malnutrition

†2090. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that 46 per cent of the children in the country are suffering from malnutrition and 47 per cent of the children are under weight;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been stunted physical growth of 38 per cent of children;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.